



TIMBER TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

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C.A.W.M.C. SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – TIME TO GET “A ROUND TUIT”:

Hopefully you have already looked after this yearly task. If not, it is time to get ‘A Round Tuit’. Please *use the renewal membership form enclosed with last month’s newsletter* and send it along to *Al Munro*. Note any address changes so he can send them along to me. Have you ever considered providing a CAWMC membership, as a Christmas present, to an interested collector?

On this topic of “A Round Tuit”, I have dug out and reprinted (on page 6) a column that appeared in *Canadian Coin News*, back in 1977, and was written by the late *Norm Wells*. In this column, he writes about ‘Getting around to it’ along with describing other new ‘wood’ issues of that time. Norm wrote a regular column on ‘wooden tokens’ for *Canadian Coin News*. So, if you haven’t sent off that renewal, do as the pictured woods show and get ‘*A Round Tuit*’.



FREE WOODS WITH THIS MAILING:

For those C.A.W.M.C. members that have me ‘hold’ their monthly free woods for a once-a-year, more secure, mailing, this is your pre Christmas present. *All woods for the calendar year 2003 are included with this newsletter*. Once again, my thanks goes out to *Lou Vesh* who, every year, provides me with these cardboard inserts in which these woods are mailed. Making these inserts costs Lou considerable time and effort and I am greatly indebted to him for doing this. A big ‘*Thank You*’, Lou. The post office processes these larger envelopes differently and experience in past years has proven to be successful in getting them to their destination safely (without breakage). I hope this year’s mailing has the same result.

WOODEN NICKELS BY JACK VEFFER:

Three pages of information on issues by the late *Jack Veff* have been submitted by CAWMC member *John Regitko* (pages 3,4, and 5). John has provided many pages for this newsletter in the past few months. Many ‘thanks’, John.

FREE WOOD THIS MONTH, ONE OF FOUR:

The late **Basil Latham** was a charter member of CAWMC (#C34). Before he died he gave to me a variety of some of his extra woods asking that they be distributed as 'free woods' to our membership. You will receive, as this month's free wood, *one of the four woods* he gave to me. I have pictured all four woods here with their catalogue number and colours. I had to put the four woods together in order to get enough free woods for all members. They were shuffled up and picked at random. Three of the woods are Christmas and New Years issues so are appropriate for this time of year. The fourth is a 70th birthday wood. Coincidentally, Basil and I (your editor), had the same birth date (October 11th - Libra).



Christmas 1996 (5900-397)
green - red



Christmas 1997 (5900-449)
red - green

**CAWMC OFFICERS**

President: NORM BELSTEN
Vice-President: DAVE GILLESPIE
Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Chairman: AL MUNRO
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Editor: ROSS KINGDON
Fund Raiser: LOU VESH
Auction Coordinator: AL MUNRO

DUES: Membership dues in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors are:

Canadian Residents: \$10.00 Canadian Funds
United States Residents: \$10.00 U.S. Funds
International Members Rate (outside of Canada and U.S.): \$20.00 Canadian Funds
Youth (16 years of age and under): \$5.00

Dues paid to Mr. Al Munro, Box 2643 Stn. 'M', Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 3C1

FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH**FREE WOOD FROM ABOVE continued:**

Christmas 1998 (5900-455) blue - blue



70th Birthday 1998 blue - blue 5900-452



THE WOODEN NICKELS, MEDALS & TOKENS ISSUED BY THE LATE JACK VEFFER

by John Regitko, CAWMC member

The late Jack Veffe's involvement in the hobby took a number of turns and twists during his lifetime. He served the CNA in various elected positions, including 1st Vice-President for the 1977-79 term and as President for the 1979-81 term. He had previously served on the Executive of the Canadian Paper Money Society (CPMS) and the International Paper Money Society (IPMS). He was also an organizer of the Toronto Paper Money Group which met monthly in downtown Toronto. Professionally, he was a florist, the co-owner (with his brothers) of a chain of flower shops called Dutch Flower Shops. He also started the S.O.B. Numismatists, however I will save any wooden token collectibles of that organization for another column.

Between all his other activities, both professionally and hobby related, he found time to start up a numismatic paper in 1981, the *Numismatic Courier*. I still remember vividly visiting his office before the furniture arrived, computers sitting on the floor and watching him plan the future of his new "baby."

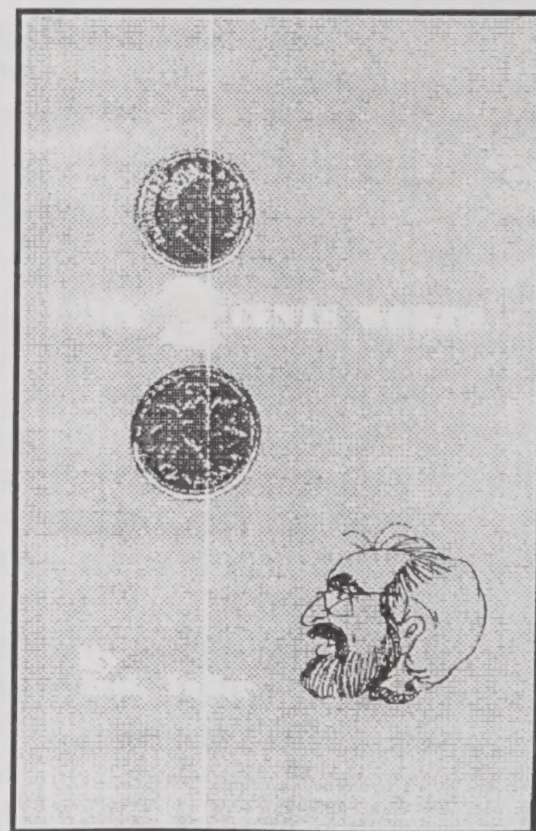
Alas, he would only be publishing 5 issues. Scott McLaren, then owner of Canadian Coin Stamp Antique News (those were the days before the paper was split into 3 different publications), decided to offer a 2-for-1 sale on all advertising to ward off this new competition. Jack realized that the well-established McLaren Publications, which included weekly Muskoka newspapers, could outlast his *Numismatic Courier*. He decided to end his foray into the publishing world....at least until he had another brainstorm a number of years later.

The press run of Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Numismatic Courier*, consisting of 20,000 copies if memory serves me right, was distributed free to coin clubs across Canada. The press run of issue numbers 2 through 5 were reduced to just accommodate his paid subscribers. Unlike most other publications, Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Numismatic Courier* is the most common (I still have a couple of dozen of Number 1, but only 1 of each of the others).



Prior to the start-up of the *Numismatic Courier*, he gave away \$3 trade dollars that were good towards the subscription of his paper. A quantity of 5,000 were struck, however, most of them were eventually destroyed. The exact quantity of tokens that remain un-redeemed is unknown, however, they are not plentiful and turn up very infrequently in a dealer's inventory.

His other publishing venture involved a 353-page book entitled "My 2 Cents Worth." It has been acknowledged by everyone... from the late Sheldon S. Carroll and Robert Willey to various Presidents of the CNA...as informative, humorous, educational and a "good read." I was asked to keep the inventory and do the shipping. I am still the custodian of the remaining inventory of the book of which not many remain.





Jack designed artwork for a special wooden token to tie in with the launch of his book. Universal Signs of Moncton, N.B. struck a quantity of the woods that were then sent out, along with a greeting card designed by John Regitko. Illustrated to the right is the front cover of the greeting card, while below are the inside panels which gave the

reason for issuing and distributing the wooden token. Each card included one of the wooden tokens enclosed in a clear plastic 2x2 holder stapled to the inside of the card.

A SPECIAL INVITATION



FROM
Jack Veffer
AUTHOR/PUBLISHER

I AM PLEASED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO YOU A COMPLIMENTARY LIMITED-EDITION WOODEN NICKEL SOUVENIR TOKEN.

AS MUCH AS THIS FREE WOODEN NICKEL MIGHT BE A SURPRISE TO RECEIVE, I FEEL YOU WILL EQUALLY BE SURPRISED BY THE CONTENTS OF MY BOOK "MY 2 CENTS WORTH"... ANECDOTES, PERSONALITIES, UNUSUAL HISTORY, HUNDREDS OF FACTS. ALL ON NUMISMATICS, PRESENTED IN A VERY LIGHT-HEARTED AND HUMOROUS MANNER.

THE BOOK HAS RECEIVED EXCELLENT REVIEWS FROM A LOT OF "WHO'S WHO" OF THE HOBBY.

Jack Veffer
Author/Publisher

AS A DEDICATED AND CONSCIENTIOUS WORKER ON BEHALF OF THE HOBBY, WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT A SPECIAL DEAL TO YOU:

ORDER A COPY OF "MY 2 CENTS WORTH" FROM US NOW, AND THE PRICE IS ONLY \$10.00, WHICH INCLUDES SHIPPING, HANDLING, ALL APPLICABLE TAXES AND MY PERSONALIZED AUTOGRAPH.

THAT'S RIGHT, A \$10 BILL, CHEQUE, MONEY ORDER OR BANK DRAFT GETS YOU A COPY OF THE 350-PAGE BOOK!

EVEN IF YOU DON'T ORDER THE BOOK, THE LIMITED-EDITION "AUTHOR'S WOOD" IS YOURS TO



SEND ONLY
\$10.00 FOR
EACH BOOK
ORDERED:

COINERS
PRESS

90 HADDINGTON
AVE.
TORONTO, ONT.
M5M 2P7



Reproduction of Jack Veffler's original artwork. Note the shades of gray on reverse.



Woods as manufactured by Universal Signs of Fredericton, N.B. The printing on the reverse (above, right) pleased no one, since the ball player and the bat blended into the dark portions of the flag in the background. As a consequence, it is believed that all but 2 of the woods were destroyed. The only 2 known surviving examples are in the collection of John Regitko.



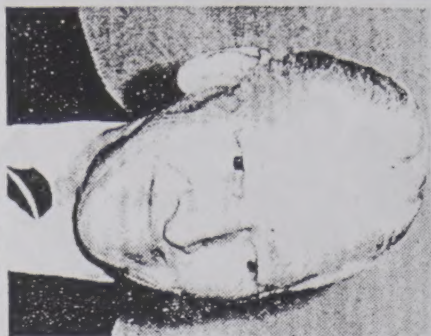
Revised artwork of the reverse side created by Jack Veffler. It shows black ball player and bat against line drawing of Canadian flag in the background. Veffler thought that this would produce an acceptable design using the silk screen method of production. Note that he eliminated the black/grey overlaps so that every feature of the design is readily seen in the artwork. The gray of the ball in flight would not be a problem since there is nothing behind it to interfere. Even though this revised artwork would no doubt produce an unacceptable result, it was never used.

Jack, well-versed with the computer program *Corel Draw*, designed another wooden nickel. His initial artwork, which I still have in my collection, created in shades of black and gray on a white background, appears like it has the makings of a very attractive token. However, shades of gray usually come out as solids on the silk screen method of printing and the end-result pleased no one. Not pleased with the appearance, all but 2 of the woods were eventually destroyed (the two pieces are currently in the collection of John Regitko).

Jack revised the artwork and sent it to Universal Signs to have them printed for free to replace the first unacceptable batch. Universal Signs refused to "correct" the awful looking wood since they did not create the artwork that was the problem and only worked with what was given them. They claimed that since they did not create the artwork, they felt no responsibility towards the appearance of the first wood and were, therefore, entitled to ask for payment for manufacturing the second batch. Veffler refused and as a consequence, the replacements were never manufactured.

Since then, Veffler passed away and Universal Signs decided to stop accepting orders for the manufacture of wooden tokens. Too bad Universal did not advise Jack of the poor quality before manufacturing them!

Canadian Wood Chips: Finally Getting A Round Tuit



By Norman E. Wells
"Get around to it."

This is quite a common expression that we no doubt have all used at various times. It is just another form of putting things off until you are in the mood to get those little nuisance jobs done.

There have been a number of wooden nickels issued with several different versions of this expression, including an abbreviated spelling of the slogan.

Viking Helicopters of Ottawa, Ont., issued a Tuit in 1976. The obverse reads Viking Helicopters Ottawa 613-836-1103 Canada. The reverse features the single "word" Tuit.

While the company shows the location Ottawa, they are actually situated at Sittsville, Ont., about eight miles south-west of the nation's capital on highway seven, where they have their helicopters and air field.

J. Hyland, the office manager for the firm, reports that he was quite surprised at the number of requests he has received from all parts of Canada and the U.S. for the wooden Tuit. He feels that it has been a very good method for advertising his company and is quite pleased with the interest it has created.

Frank Harding, FCNRS, of Laura, Sask., sent me a



Peterborough Lift Lock commemorative

Round Tuit along with the following information.

Murray Levine and his son, Joel, operate the Life Insurance Brokers of Saskatoon, Sask. Selling life, accident and disability insurance, they recently issued a wooden nickel with the obverse inscription Life Insurance Brokers Ltd. Room 100 The Bessborough Saskatoon 244-5544. The reverse reads A Round Tuit.

On questioning Joel Levine about the reverse wording, he said that a customer will often put the salesman off by saying, "I must get around it." The salesman then gives the customer one of the wooden nickels and says,



Peterborough Lift Lock commemorative

"Here is the round Tuit you wanted, now how about some insurance."

A total of 1,000 pieces were produced for the Levines. They are 38mm in diameter and feature black printing.

In addition to the two pieces already mentioned, I also have a couple of Tuits in my unidentified collection. I am not sure if they are Canadian or U.S. issues. If you should know of the location or who issued the following, I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

The first unidentified piece has the following words on the obverse — It's Hard to Get Around To Doing It, Now

You Have a Round Tu-It Courtesy of B and B Supplies. The reverse reads One Tu-It.

The second mysterious wooden token has the obverse wording When You Get Around To It Remember to Call Your Millerham for Creative Advertising Using Specialties and Calendars. The reverse features the single word Tuit.

Have there been any other Tuits issued in Canada? If there have, please let me know. I would be most interested in your findings. How about getting A Round Tuit.

NEW ISSUES

Several new Canadian wooden nickels have been issued recently.

The first of the new issues commemorates the 1977 Peterborough Numismatic Association coin show held last month. It features the Peterborough Lift Lock on the obverse and is available at 25 cents each or five for \$1, plus a self addressed and stamped envelope, from Norman E. Wells, Box 943, Peterborough, Ont.

Geoff Bell, a member of the Moncton Coin Club, issued a wooden nickel Good for One Vote as part of his campaign for a city council seat in the Moncton elections held earlier this month. Priced at \$1 each, the wooden nickel is available from Geoff Bell, 395 Highfield St., Moncton, N.B. E1C 5R7.

The 20th anniversary of the COTY Club, the Canadian Coins of the Year Club, is the subject of a wooden token issued by the Saskatoon, Sask., firm. The piece is good for 20 cents in trade with the company and may be obtained for \$1 each from Kelly Wionzek, Canadian COTY Club, Box 4008, Saskatoon, Sask.



A round Tuit



Anniversary token



Election wood



Canadian Tuit